



DON SIEGELMAN
Governor, State of Alabama



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

Providing Alabama's citizens with emergency services is one of my top priorities. This is why I was glad to provide \$100,000 in funding to purchase three collapsible water buckets to be used in firefighting. Training for the helicopter pilots who will operate the buckets was also funded.

The addition of these 760-gallon water buckets to Alabama's fire protection program will not only protect human lives but will also provide protection to one of the state's most valuable natural resources—its forests. Three agencies are responsible for coordinating the use of the water buckets: the Alabama Army National Guard, the Alabama Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Our state has the second largest commercial forest in the nation with nearly 22 million acres of forest growing over 15 billion trees. Timber is the dominant crop in 34 counties and is the foundation for the state's number one manufacturing industry, forest products. This industry annually contributes over \$9 billion to the state's economy and directly provides 72,000 jobs. Combined with another 110,000 people indirectly employed by the industry, this represents approximately 10 percent of Alabama's total work force. The forest products industry's annual payroll is around \$1.9 billion. An out-of-control fire situation could be catastrophic to our state not only because of the lost timber resource, but also because of the economic effects it could have.

In 2000, Alabama had over 6,500 wildfires that burned approximately 89,000 acres. The face of firefighting has changed in our state. Wildfires no longer occur in just the far reaches of our rural communities. Our woodlands and urban areas have begun to merge as more people build homes in forested areas. Years ago, wildfires seldom threatened homes or other structures. Today this is a much more common occurrence. With this increase in fire occurrence comes a much greater responsibility in providing efficient and effective fire protection.

The state's volunteer firefighters are invaluable to the efforts of protecting homes and forestland in the rural areas. The addition of the water buckets will provide another tool to aid all the state's wildland firefighters. The partnership and cooperative efforts in making use of these water buckets will be important to the security of our citizens and protection of our forest resources for many years to come.

I was saddened recently to learn of the death of W. Kelly Mosley, Alabama's first TREASURE Forest landowner. After a 40-year career with Southern Bell Telephone Company, Mosley retired in 1963 and made his Marengo County property a retreat for him and his family. Although he lived in Atlanta, he visited the property, which had been in his family since 1904, once or twice a month as long as his health allowed.

Through his contacts at Auburn University, his alma mater, he began actively managing the property he called "Pineland." He worked closely with Extension Forester Larkin Wade to draft a management plan that would provide for demonstration areas so the knowledge gained could be shared with other landowners. Mosley's property became TREASURE Forest #1 in 1976. He was 73 years old at that time!

It was only fitting that the first landowner featured in the first issue of this magazine was Kelly Mosley. This was in the fall of 1982. An update on Pineland was published in the magazine's summer 1989 issue.

Mosley was an encourager of other landowners and wanted to share his management successes with them. He also provided financially for the recognition of others who were doing their part to improve the environment. Gifts by Kelly Mosley allow for two awards programs that continue to this day. The Helene Mosley Memorial TREASURE Forest Award is named after Kelly Mosley's first wife and has honored outstanding TREASURE Forest landowners since 1978. The W. Kelly Mosley Environmental Awards for Achievements in Forestry, Wildlife and Related Resources are presented to those who contribute significantly to the wise use of natural resources and the environment. Grants are given to advance knowledge and development of natural resources.

In a 1989 letter to then State Forester C.W. Moody, Kelly Mosley made this statement:

"It has always been a source of satisfaction to me to know that I could do something to help improve forestry conservation in the state of Alabama. It has been such a real joy, taking advice of many people, to bring Pineland to where it has become such a showplace. I hope I can do some of the things that will encourage others to develop their places also."

You can read more about Kelly Mosley's achievements on page 16. He certainly left a legacy that will not be forgotten.